

## Books

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**Annual Review of Microbiology, Vol. 41** — L. Nicholas Ornston, Ed. Microbiology, according to the preface, demands a sense of physiology, genetics, population biology, ecology and evolution, so the field expands the minds of its practitioners. The varied articles in this volume point up these broad concerns in microbiology. Annual Review, 1987, 746 p., illus., \$31.

**A Bird Watcher's Adventures in Tropical America** — Alexander F. Skutch. Earth's richest, most varied bird life is found in Mexico, Central America and South America. Here, according to the preface, well over one-third of the planet's estimated 8,600 species of birds are concentrated in about one-seventh of its land area. Many of these birds inhabit dense rainforests and rugged mountains where it is difficult to study how they live, build their nests and raise their young. This book tells of the experiences of a well-known naturalist in tropical America during the 1930s and early 1940s. Originally published in hardback in 1977. U of Tex Pr, 1987, 327 p., illus. by Dana Gardner, paper, \$10.95.

**The Complete Book of Food: A Nutritional, Medical & Culinary Guide** — Carol Ann Rinzler. A fact-filled guide to more than 300 different foods. For each food, gives detailed information on nutrition, what to look for when purchasing, how to store, how to prepare and what happens to the food when you cook it, the effects of other kinds of processing, diets that may restrict or exclude this food, medical uses or benefits and any adverse effects. World Almanac, 1987, 425 p., \$24.95.

**Discover the Stars** — Richard Berry. A guide to star watching for the beginner. The book is divided into two main sections; the first part contains 12 round sky maps that show the entire Northern Hemisphere sky for each month of the year along with a description of the sky in that month. A telescope is not needed to use these maps, which will help you find your way around the sky and learn the constellations. The second section includes 23 rectangular star charts that show the constellations in more detail. With these maps, the accompanying text and the aid of binoculars or a small telescope, you can seek out the interesting stars and other fascinating sky features. Explains the movement of the moon and the planets and gives sources for learning more about astronomy. Harmony(Crown), 1987, 119 p., illus., paper, \$10.95.

**The Health Century** — Edward Shorter. This companion volume to the PBS television series of the same name documents the many medical breakthroughs of the 20th century. Many of these were made possible, according to the preface, by the unique partnership of U.S. government, academia and industry. The book begins with a look at the triumphs and tragedies in the fight against infectious disease, discusses the advances over heart disease and other medical advances that will have impact on the elderly and finally explores the manipulation of genetic material and the benefits to humans. Doubleday, 1987, 304 p., color/b&w illus., \$21.95.

**The Hunting of the Quark: A True Story of Modern Physics** — Michael Riordan. A fascinating account of the quark discovery, using it as the central thread in the history of particle physics. The author was involved in the physics experimentation that, through trial and error, ultimately led to the transformation of physicists' mental image of the subatomic world. S&S, 1987, 399 p., illus., \$21.95, paper, \$9.95.

**Piercing the Surface: X-Rays of Nature** — Carlo and Stefano Greco. This beautiful book includes X-rays of flowers, sponges, corals, mollusks, insects and higher animals, revealing physical aspects and fascinating images that are invisible to the naked eye. Most of the radiographs are accompanied by a color photograph of the same subject in order to allow comparison of the outer structures with the inner shapes produced in the X-ray. The text introducing each section presents an overview of the flower and animal radiographs. Originally published in Italy in 1986. Abrams, 1987, 142 p., color/b&w illus., \$29.95.

**The Technology War: A Case for Competitiveness** — David H. Brandin and Michael A. Harrison. The technology war is, according to the preface, a race among nations, particularly the United States and its European and Asian trading partners, to become the world's leading developer and supplier of information technology. The authors feel that whoever controls this technology in the years to come will control the resources of the world and will be the next global power. The strategies of this competition are described along with the objectives of the countries involved. Information technology here encompasses industrial policy, capital and tax policies, trade policies and technological development, as well as economics, education and sociology. Wiley, 1987, 244 p., \$24.95.

**Time: The Familiar Stranger** — J. T. Fraser. The author has spent over three decades of research in the interdisciplinary study of time. Here he offers for the general reader a survey of the history of the ideas and experiences of time. Discusses our understanding of time both in everyday life and in the world of science. U of Mass Pr, 1987, 389 p., illus., \$24.95.

**Time Travel: And Other Mathematical Bewilderments** — Martin Gardner. The latest collection of Gardner's SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN columns, which include problems and paradoxes, teasers and tricks. From time travel to tiling with convex polygons and melody-making machines, these fascinating problems offer a challenge to those interested in recreational mathematics. W H Freeman, 1987, 295 p., illus., \$17.95, paper, \$12.95.

**Welcome to Moonbase** — Ben Bova. An employee manual for the 21st-century lunar pioneer. Provides the employee with a complete "history" of the exploration of the moon and the establishment of lunar bases. This hypothetical moonbase was created by an alliance of 15 nations and is a dynamic center of industry, the nerve center of all space exploration efforts and the site of mining operations that provide oxygen and building materials for other facilities in space. This is a book, according to the author, to make the general reader contemplate men and women living and working on the moon in the foreseeable future. Ballantine, 1987, 254 p., color/b&w illus., paper, \$9.95.

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